



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 336

LCO No. 1927

01927_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-812 of the 2006 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement and
5 administer a program of rental assistance for low-income families
6 living in privately-owned rental housing. For the purposes of this
7 section, a low-income family is one whose income does not exceed fifty
8 per cent of the median family income for the area of the state in which
9 such family lives, as determined by the commissioner.

10 (b) Housing eligible for participation in the program shall comply
11 with applicable state and local health, housing, building and safety
12 codes.

13 (c) In addition to an element in which rental assistance certificates
14 are made available to qualified tenants, to be used in eligible housing

15 which such tenants are able to locate, the program may include a
16 housing support element in which rental assistance for tenants is
17 linked to participation by the property owner in other municipal, state
18 or federal housing repair, rehabilitation or financing programs. The
19 commissioner shall use rental assistance under this section so as to
20 encourage the preservation of existing housing and the revitalization
21 of neighborhoods or the creation of additional rental housing.

22 (d) The commissioner may designate a portion of the rental
23 assistance [certificates] available under the program for tenant-based
24 and project-based supportive housing units. To the extent practicable
25 rental assistance [certificates issued] for supportive housing shall
26 adhere to the requirements of the federal Housing Choice Voucher
27 Program, 42 USC 1437f(o), relative to calculating the tenant's share of
28 the rent to be paid.

29 (e) The commissioner shall administer the program under this
30 section to promote housing choice for certificate holders and
31 encourage racial and economic integration. The commissioner shall
32 establish maximum rent levels for each municipality in a manner that
33 promotes the use of the program in all municipalities. Any certificate
34 issued pursuant to this section may be used for housing in any
35 municipality in the state. The commissioner shall inform certificate
36 holders that a certificate may be used in any municipality and, to the
37 extent practicable, the commissioner shall assist certificate holders in
38 finding housing in the municipality of their choice.

39 (f) Nothing in this section shall give any person a right to continued
40 receipt of rental assistance at any time that the program is not funded.

41 (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
42 provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the purposes of this section. The
43 regulations shall establish maximum income eligibility guidelines for
44 such rental assistance and criteria for determining the amount of rental
45 assistance which shall be provided to eligible families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-812
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Statement of Purpose:

To provide the Department of Social Services with greater flexibility in administering the new project-based component of the rental assistance program by allowing for direct contracts with supportive housing providers who afford rental support to residents of supportive housing.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]